he believed, lay in quite another direction. But he may now be willing to bear the weight of political distinction provided he can feel an assurance that if nominated, he could not well fail of an election. Some whig should sound him. I cannot do it, nor can I speak to a Whig on the subject. At present I must be a dumb cat. What I say to you must be interviews. But I know of no objection to your taking any steps in the case that you may please, either by seeing Mr. S. yourself or by finding some one who can do it with propriety. If he was found to be right, any efficient whig might easily bring about his nomination by the whole party & then our contest would be speedily ended.

Will you give this matter your serious attention, for I think it a matter of serious importance & deserving of consideration. If you should move in case, please give me early information of your success.

Yours truly

A. Farnsworth

I am obliged to take the stage early in the morning for home, or I would call on you.

Dr. Amos Farnsworth.

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(Jared Sparks
4th District.)

Brookline Feb 7. 22 1839

Rev. A. A. Phelps

Dear Sir

I have just thought of the name for a Whig candidate in the 4 District. If right as to our interrogatories, he is precisely the man to distance his competitor. That man is Jared Sparks. The whole world knows his talents, & appreciate them, & nothing can with truth be brought against him. Indeed, no serious attempt would be made against him. I am inclined to hope that he would make himself acceptable to the Abolitionists. Some years since, in antimasonic days, I visited upon him to learn his opinions of the Hundred with the view of bringing him forward as our candidate for a seat in Congress. I found him right on that question - which to my mind, is almost prima facie evidence that he is right on the Slavery question. Mr. Sparks took a week to consider the matter, & then addressed me a letter declining to be put in nomination, mainly on the ground that he was no politician, & that his duties,